

# JBSA

# LEGACY

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JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO

APRIL 7, 2017

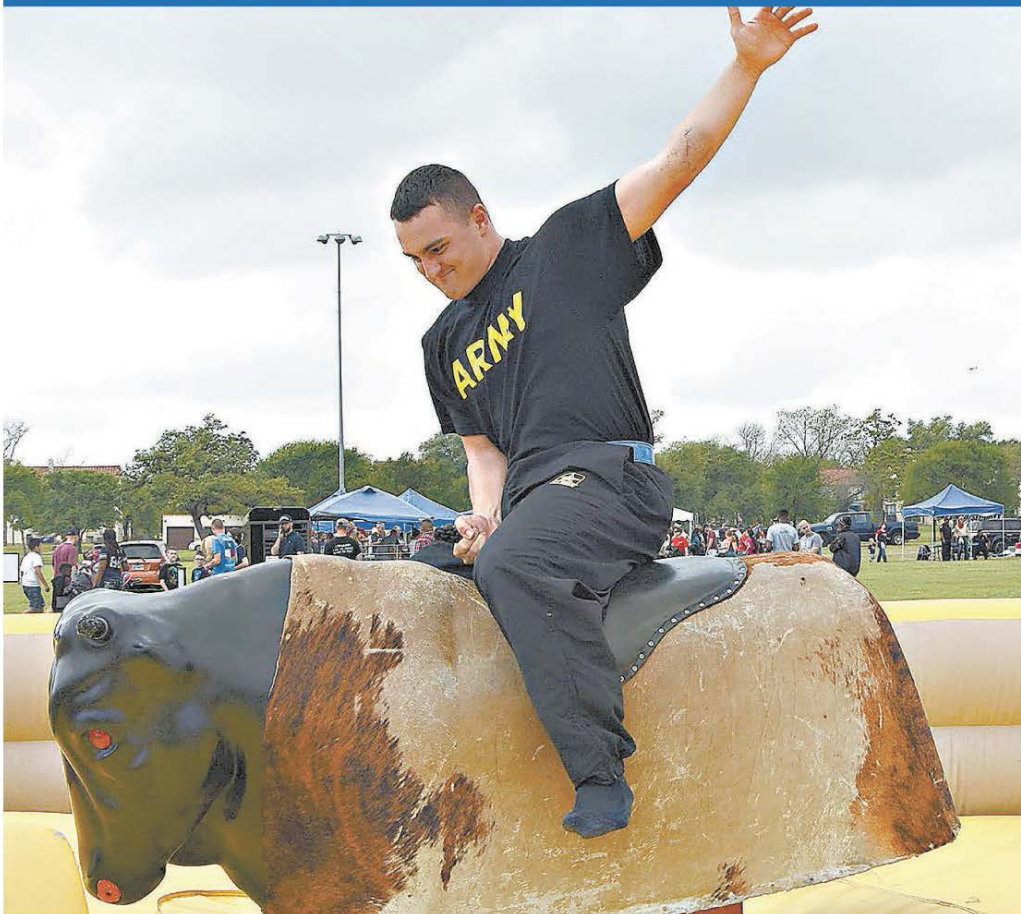


PHOTO BY RUTH MEDINA

*A Soldier rides the mechanical bull during the Cowboys for Heroes event April 1 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston's MacArthur Parade Field.*

## Cowboys for Heroes event draws thousands

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**JROTC comes to RHS**  
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# Event focuses on resources for retired members

By Robert Goetz

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Military retirees and their spouses who live in the San Antonio area will learn about programs and benefits available from more than 35 agencies and organizations during Joint Base San Antonio's Retiree Appreciation Day from 8:15 a.m. to noon April 8 at JBSA-Randolph's Kendrick Club.

The event provides current service members with an opportunity to recognize and show appreciation to the military members who preceded them and laid the foundation for today's armed forces, said Mike Hoffman, JBSA-Randolph Retiree Activities Office deputy director.

"It is an effort to support, advance and unify retired and active military families," he said.

Agencies and organizations represented will include the 359th Medical Group, JBSA-Randolph Commissary and Main Exchange, TRICARE, Association of the Army, Air Force Association, JBSA-Randolph Chaplain Office, Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery, Texas Veterans Commission, Army Wellness Center and many others. Representatives will provide information and answer questions.

Other facilities at JBSA-Randolph will contribute to Retiree Appreciation Day, Hoffman said.

"Randolph Oaks Golf Course will offer a 20 percent discount to retirees for merchandise and green fees," he said. "The JBSA-Randolph Bowling Center will offer a 'bowl one game, get one free' special that includes shoe rental."

In addition, the Wingman Café will be open to retirees, the JBSA-Randolph

Medical Clinic will have a collection box for outdated and unnecessary drugs, the American Legion will accept retired flags for proper destruction, a movie schedule will be available and the ID card office in Pitsenbarger Hall will be open for walk-ins.

The event will also feature a military working dog demonstration and fire department equipment display outside the Kendrick Club.

Each major JBSA location typically hosts a Retiree Appreciation Day once every year. The last one was held in October at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston.

For more information on next month's Retiree Appreciation Day, call the JBSA-Randolph Retiree Activities Office at 652-6880. The office's customer service hours are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday-Friday.

# Changing schools challenges military families

By Robert Goetz

502ND AIR BASE WING  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Permanent changes of station pose major challenges for military members and their families — from the packing and transportation of household goods to relocation and the search for a new home.

Another significant challenge facing military families is changing schools.

Education issues that parents must consider when enrolling their children in a new school include immunization requirements, graduation requirements, entrance and exit testing, midsemester transfers, credit transfers and extracurricular eligibility, said Angela Green, Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph school liaison officer.

The services their children receive, particularly their special-needs students, are an

important consideration for parents, Green said.

"One of the challenges parents face is ensuring their children receive the same services they received at their previous school," she said. "Those services could be better, but parents cannot predict what will happen in a different community."

Midsemester transfers are another worrisome issue for parents, Green said.

"One couple moved here from California, and their child had one day to prepare for the STAAR test," she said, referring to the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness for students in third through eighth grade. "That isn't enough preparation time."

Graduating on time can be difficult for high school seniors whose families are moving due to a PCS, said Lori Phipps, JBSA-Lackland school liaison officer.

"Over the last six years, I've seen a lot of situations come through our office," she said. "Each one is unique and has its set of challenges, but the ones that stick out in my mind the most are those dealing with our families that have students who are seniors. Those take on a sense of urgency, and it truly takes a lot of teamwork from the school and installation the student is leaving and the new school and installation to make sure the student graduates on time."

The problem of changing schools is compounded by the fact that military members move so often, Green said.

"The average number of times military children move is six to nine times during their school years," she said. "I know of one child who changed schools three times between the ninth and 12th grade."

For military children, social

and emotional challenges are always a factor, Phipps said.

"It's known that the one question that military children dislike the most is, 'Where are you from,' because for a military child, they are really from everywhere," she said. "Each move brings new adventures, and each one of those adventures molds that military child."

Social issues that military children confront include meeting new friends, adjusting to a new place, culture shock and missing old friends, while their emotions can range from sadness, anger and apprehension to vulnerability, loneliness and no sense of belonging, Green said.

"Military children can benefit from programs that make them feel welcome," she said. "Some schools have adopted Student 2 Student or a similar program

SCHOOLS continues on 17

## JBSA LEGACY

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**Joint Base San Antonio  
HOTLINES**

• **Sexual Assault Hotline**  
210-808-SARC (7272)

• **Domestic Abuse Hotline**  
210-367-1213

• **DOD Safe Helpline**  
877-995-5247

• **Suicide Prevention**  
800-273-TALK (8255)

• **Duty Chaplain**  
210-221-9363



# JBSA to host 2017 Air Show and Open House

By Ashley Palacios

502ND AIR BASE WING  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The 502nd Air Base Wing hosts the 2017 Joint Base San Antonio Air Show and Open House Nov. 4 and 5 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at JBSA-Lackland Kelly Field Annex.

Headlining the schedule are the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds, along with the F-35 Heritage demonstration flight team.

The air show will also feature civilian flying acts, Heritage aircraft static displays and other active-duty aircraft. Children's activities, play areas and food will also be available.

The two-day event will include support from all services and is free and open to the public. Gates for base access will be publicized as the event nears.

The schedule is subject to change and will be updated as information becomes available. For updates on the 2017 JBSA Air Show and Open House, visit [www.jbsa.mil](http://www.jbsa.mil).



TECH. SGT. MANUEL J. MARTINEZ

*The U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds perform an aerial demonstration during the Cannon Air Show May 28 at Cannon Air Force Base, N.M. The Thunderbirds, along with the F-35 Heritage demonstration flight team, will headline the 2017 Joint Base San Antonio Air Show and Open House in November.*

## JBSA Air Force Assistance Fund campaign to kick off April 10

From 502nd Air Base Wing  
Public Affairs

The 2017 Air Force Assistance Fund Campaign at Joint Base San Antonio kicks off April 10 and will run until May 19.

JBSA is part of the overall Air Force effort worldwide participating in this annual fundraising event which raises money for four Air Force charities – the Air Force Aid Society, Air Force Enlisted Village, Air Force Villages Charitable Foundation and the General and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation.

“The overall fund-raising goal this year for JBSA is \$335,305, split between JBSA-Randolph, JBSA-Lackland and JBSA-Fort Sam Houston,” said Capt. Vincent Sayegh, 502nd Air Base Wing Staff Judge Advocate chief of civil law and JBSAs AF AF installation project officer.

Unit AF AF project officers will be making 100 percent contact with active-



COURTESY GRAPHIC

duty personnel about the program; other personnel wishing to make an AF AF donation should contact their unit AF AF project officers for information.

In 2016, the Air Force Aid Society, which celebrates 75 years in 2017, provided approximately \$431,992 to Airmen

and their families right here in Joint Base San Antonio, Texas.

Here's a closer look at the four charities the AF AF supports:

- The Air Force Aid Society: provides Airmen and their families worldwide with emergency financial assistance, education assistance and various base-level community enhancement programs.

- The Air Force Enlisted Village: supports Teresa Village in Fort Walton Beach, Fla., and Bob Hope Village in Shalimar, Florida, near Eglin Air Force Base. The fund provides homes and financial assistance to retired enlisted members' widows and widowers who are 55 and older. It also supports Hawthorn House in Shalimar which provides assisted living for residents, including 24-hour nursing care.

- The Air Force Villages Charitable Foundation: donations support independent and assisted living needs for retired officers and their spouses, widows

or widowers and family members. Communities are located in San Antonio.

- The General and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation: provides rent and financial assistance to widows and widowers of officer and enlisted retirees in their homes and communities through financial grants of assistance.

For more information on the Air Force Assistance fund and how to donate, visit <http://www.afassistance-fund.org>.

Joint Base San Antonio AF AF points of contact are:

- JBSA: Capt. Vincent Sayegh, 502 Judge Advocate, 221-7416;
- JBSA-Ft. Sam Houston: Senior Master Sgt. Latonya Parker, 502 Force Support Group, 221-2916;
- JBSA-Lackland: Capt Anthony Rock, 502 Installation Support Group/JA, 671-5762;
- JBSA-Randolph: Master Sgt. Mark Fox, 902 Security Forces Squadron, 652-5968.

# Who is 'UNAFRAID' to stop sexual violence?

If we are willing to lay down our lives defending our country, then what stops us from protecting each other from sexual assault?

**By Dan Katka**

JBSA SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION  
AND RESPONSE

By now, you've probably seen a banner or a yard sign that says "UNAFRAID" at one of the Joint Base San Antonio locations.

You may have even called the telephone number listed on the sign (210-808-8986) to find out what it means. If you did, you found out that the JBSA Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention office is promoting a campaign for Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention month in

April titled "Unafraid."

This campaign complements the Department of Defense campaign "Protecting our People Protects the Mission. Stop Sexual Assault."

In the military, we defend our country with fearless dedication and we're committed to its security. Whether it's a humanitarian or a strategic mission, men and women in the armed forces help others at home and around the world every day.

We are trusted to protect others that may be in harm's way, to step in as necessary and help others.

According to a 2016 Gallup Poll, the military is the most trusted institution in the nation. We are trusted because our nation is confident that we try to create or maintain a way of life that feels safe so others can live in peace and freedom. To maintain these privileges, we are willing to lay our life down if necessary.

If we are willing to lay down our lives defending our country, then what stops us from protecting each other from sexual assault? If we are so committed to helping others at home or in another country, then why not when we are out with friends, at a club, party or other social gathering?

Are we afraid to act if we see someone in trouble? Are we afraid to speak up if we see a potential dangerous situation?

The military is full of some

**We need to have the same level of commitment in defending our fellow military members against sexual assault as we do in defending our country. We need to speak up, step in, protect. We need to be "Unafraid."**

the most honorable people in our country; unfortunately, there are those who choose to harm others. We need to have the same level of commitment in defending our fellow military members against sexual assault as we do in defending our country. We need to speak up, step in, protect. We need to be "Unafraid."

During Sexual Assault Awareness & Prevention Month, or SAAPM, many events will promote awareness

and educate the community on sexual violence. There will be information tables set up every week at exchanges, fitness centers, dining facilities and shoppettes. Feel free to stop by and chat with one of the staff members or volunteers to learn more.

To report a sexual assault, call the JBSA 24/7 Sexual Assault Crisis Hotline at 210-808-7272 or the Department of Defense Safe Helpline at 877-995-5247.

## Defense IT, Cyber, Intel Hiring Fair



**Date/Time:** April 12, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Location:** Fort Sam Houston Golf Club,  
1050 Harry Wurzbach Road



Attendees will meet employers from local and national organizations during this free defense, information technology and cyber hiring fair. Those interested can register and upload a resume at <http://www.TransitionCareers.com/events/JBSA>.

Thousands of immediate jobs available.

Email [JobSeejer@TransitionCareers.com](mailto:JobSeejer@TransitionCareers.com) for more information.

# JBSA events focus on child abuse prevention

**By Robert Goetz**  
502ND AIR BASE WING  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

“Cardboard Kids” and the color blue will be a common sight throughout Joint Base San Antonio in April as the installation observes National Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month.

A variety of events — culminating in the citywide United Way Kids Festival from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 29 at San Antonio's Lockwood Park, 801 N. Olive St. — will draw attention to the specter of child abuse, which impacts nearly 700,000 children in the United States annually, according to the National Children's Alliance.

“Our theme this year is ‘Building Communities, Building Hope, Building Healthy Families,’ ” said Gina Ramirez, JBSA-Randolph outreach/resil-

ency coordinator. “The events we have planned will raise awareness of child abuse and inform the JBSA community about the Air Force Family Advocacy Program's efforts to prevent and treat family violence.”

The Cardboard Kids made their first appearance April 6 at JBSA locations, including a special daylong event at JBSA-Randolph, where the 2-foot-tall cardboard figures representing victims of child abuse were displayed on the median separating the inbound and outbound lanes of Harmon Drive.

The Cardboard Kids Campaign was created by ChildSafe, a Bexar County trauma-focused care center for child victims and child survivors of abuse and neglect.

Decorated by children at JBSA's child development programs and youth centers and by

chapel youth groups, the Cardboard Kids also will be displayed at places such as the exchanges, commissaries and banks throughout the month.

“Wear Blue Day,” also April 6 at JBSA, was another significant day during Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month.

“Blue is the color for child abuse awareness, so wearing blue that day is just in support of child abuse prevention and awareness,” said Norma Leal, JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Family Advocacy Program outreach manager.

Family-oriented events at JBSA kicked off April 1 with the Celebrate Kids festival at the JBSA-Lackland Youth Center. Upcoming events are the Baseball Opening Day and Month of the Military Child Celebration from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. April 8 at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston's Dodd Field Youth Sports Com-

plex and Fagananza from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 8 at the JBSA-Randolph Youth Center.

Other events will include story times at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston and JBSA-Randolph libraries, Shaken Baby Syndrome and the Period of Purple Crying training from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 13 at JBSA-Randolph's Child Development Program Annex and Stewards of Children training from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 27 at the JBSA-Randolph Medical Clinic's 359th Medical Operations Squadron conference room. Stewards of Child training teaches adults how to prevent, recognize and react responsibly to child sexual abuse.

Representatives of JBSA's Family Advocacy Program offices will provide information about child abuse and prevention during the month.

The Family Advocacy Pro-

gram offers parenting classes, awareness events, anger and stress management classes, the New Parent Support Program and car seat inspections, Ramirez said. Other resources include chaplain offices, mental health services, Military Family Life Counselors and Military OneSource.

The Family Advocacy Program and other Department of Defense resources play an important role in preventing child abuse and promoting healthy families, she said.

“The Family Advocacy Program supports mission readiness and retention through the prevention and treatment of family violence,” Ramirez said. “The goal of the program is to promote readiness and family wellness by enhancing the health, welfare and morale of active-duty service members and their families.”



# FORT SAM HOUSTON

## Thousands turn out for Cowboys for Heroes

By Ruth Medina  
502ND AIR BASE WING  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Thousands of Joint Base San Antonio members who are aficionados of chuck wagon cooking and general cowboy-style fun turned out for the annual Cowboys for Heroes event April 1, held this year at the MacArthur Parade Field at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

According to event organizers, it was the largest crowd to ever come out for the event, drawing between 5,000 and 6,000 attendees. A total of 17 chuck wagons from various locations served up tons of grilled meats with all the fixings to a hungry and appreciative crowd. The organizers also noted that all the meat was gone in four hours.



PHOTOS BY RUTH MEDINA

*Soldiers from 187th Medical Battalion Company B and 264th Medical Battalion Company B mingle with members of the Chuck Wagon Cuisine during the Cowboys for Heroes event April 1 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston's MacArthur Parade Field.*



*Andrew Robinson, 1298 Chuck Wagon cook, prepares cowboy-style chili. Organizers of the event said the appreciative crowd consumed all the the meat at the 17 chuck wagons in four hours.*



*Military families line up at the cookie and candy station during Cowboys for Heroes. It was the largest crowd ever for the event, which drew 5,000 to 6,000 attendees this year.*



# ARSOUTH, Belize Defence Force to work together during Beyond the Horizon 2017

By Sgt. 1st Class  
John Etheridge

128TH MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
DETACHMENT

U.S. Army South, in partnership with the Belize Defence Force, or BDF, and the Ministries of Defence, Health, and Education are taking part in Beyond the Horizon 2017, a collaborative training exercise involving numerous U.S., Belizean and international participants.

Beyond the Horizon, or BTH, will provide free medical and dental services, as well as build medical and educational facilities, valued at \$10 million, for communities across Belize.

The exercise began March 25 and is scheduled to end the second week of June. BTH furthers the U.S. government's continued commitment to the



SGT. 1ST CLASS JOHN ETHERIDGE

*Chargé d'Affaires Adrienne Galanek from the U.S. Embassy in Belize speaks March 25 with incoming U.S. service members on the importance of Beyond the Horizon at Price Barracks, Belize.*

Government and people of Belize in the field of humanitarian assistance.

During the exercise, the BDF and many Belizean organizations will work side by side with U.S. military forces, learning from each other and serving the Belizean people. BTH

will strengthen the partnership between the United States and Belize through collaboration on a variety of projects throughout Belize.

The exercise will consist of five construction projects and three medical service events. The construction projects are

as follows:

- ▶ Expansion of the emergency room at the Western Regional Hospital in Belmopan.
- ▶ Construction of a new medical waste incinerator housing at the Western Regional Hospital in Belmopan.
- ▶ Construction of a new medical clinic building at the Ladyville Health Clinic.
- ▶ Construction of a new medical clinic building at the Double Head Cabbage Clinic.
- ▶ Construction of three new classrooms at St. Matthew's Government School.

Beginning April 8, members of the BDF and the Ministry of Health, as well as medical professionals from the United States and other partner nations, will provide free general medical and dental services to the Belizean people.

The dates and locations of

the medical and dental services are as follows:

- ▶ April 8-13 and April 15-20: Ladyville Community Center/ Hurricane Shelter, Ladyville, Belize District.
- ▶ May 6-20: Macal River Park, San Ignacio, Cayo District.
- ▶ May 20-June 3: Company D barracks, Dangriga, Stann Creek District.

BTH began in 2008 and continues the legacy of civic assistance programs in Central America.

Past BTH exercises in Belize have included construction of schools in Double Head Cabbage and Dangriga, as well as free medical and dental services in Hattiesville.

For more information on the BTH exercise, visit the BTH Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/BTH2017Belize/>.

## Governor swears in future Sailors from San Antonio during Austin Navy Week

By Burrell Parmer

NAVY RECRUITING DISTRICT-  
SAN ANTONIO PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The capital of Texas hosted members of the U.S. Navy during Austin Navy Week, March 18-24, which coincided with the Rodeo Austin and Stock Show.

As part of Navy Week, Navy Vice Chief of Information Rear Adm. Robert Durand, joined by Sailors and future Sailors, were invited to the Governor's Mansion to receive a proclamation from Gov. Greg Abbott.

During the visit, Abbott administered the Oath of Enlistment to 10 future Sailors of Navy Recruiting District San Antonio.

Entering the meeting room,

where a photo of Sam Houston was prominently displayed, Abbott welcomed the Sailors and future Sailors to the Governor's Mansion.

"I'm am very proud of the role that you are playing," Abbott said. "The thing that made Texas strong and the United States strong is the fact that we always had a strong defense. Without defense, there is no safety or security.

"The line of defense is those who serve in our military forces," Abbott continued. "What you are doing is playing a vital role for the future and safety of the United States of America."

Abbott spoke to the future Sailors about some of the history of the Governor's Man-

sion and about his brother who served 20 years as a naval aviator flying A-6 aircraft.

Before the oath, Durand spoke about the future of America's Navy.

"For whatever reason you decided to serve, we are glad you are here," Durand said. "As you prepare to go to recruit training, you will be tested; you will find strength and resolve with yourselves that you thought you never had. You will learn to rely on your shipmates, and you will become a shipmate who can be relied upon."

Durand stated that whether on a ship or on shore duty, the Sailors will reflect the Navy's Core Values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment.



BURRELL PARMER

*Texas Gov. Greg Abbott delivers a proclamation to Navy Vice Chief of Information Rear Adm. Robert Durand after administering the Oath of Enlistment to 10 future Sailors of Navy Recruiting District San Antonio at the Governor's Mansion during Navy Week March 18-24.*

After the ceremony, Abbott delivered a proclamation to Durand that declared March 18-24 as Navy Week.

Before departing, Abbott informed the Sailors that the

room they were in is the same place where presidents and national and international leaders have met and that those present were now among them.

# NMTSC celebrates Women's History Month during ceremony

By Petty Officer 1st Class  
Jacquelyn D. Childs  
NMTSLC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Navy, Army and Air Force staff and students from the Medical Education and Training Campus, or METC, gathered to celebrate Women's History Month March 28 during a ceremony hosted by the Navy Medicine Training Support Center, or NMTSC, Diversity Council at METC at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

This year's theme "Honoring Trailblazing Women Who Have Paved the Way for Future Generations" inspired one of the guest speakers, Petty Officer 1st Class Joy Lewis, an instructor in the Basic Medical Technician Corpsman Program, or BMTCP, to talk about a handful of women in the military who pushed through barriers and set new



PETTY OFFICER 1ST CLASS JACQUELYN D. CHILDS

*Students in the Basic Medical Technician Corpsman Program at the Medical Education and Training Campus, or METC, sing during a Women's History Month celebration March 28 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.*

precedencies for service women.

"These women have opened doors and paved paths so I could be here with you today

to discuss a woman who has inspired me in my career," said Lewis, who spoke about her mentor, retired Force Master Chief Laura Martinez. "The

military is often described as a fraternity, a brotherhood. I always admired women who could be a part of the brotherhood but never forget they are women at their core. They have poise, confidence, are a great influence and can hold their own in any environment."

Lewis discussed the impact Martinez had on her career, whether through direct influence when they worked at the same command or through the mentorship of others influenced by Martinez.

"No matter where you go, a sisterhood remains," said Lewis.

The next guest speaker, Lt. Cmdr. Sarah Gentry, a BMTCP instructor, discussed the importance of fostering that sisterhood and lifting women up in a world that, according to Gentry, can make them feel less than what they should be.

"While great strides have been made by those women in the past, there's still much work to be done by us, the amazing women of the present," Gentry said. "I don't want us to grow complacent."

Gentry said that it is up to the women of today to change the views of what a woman should be so future women may feel comfortable no matter what path they take or where they are in life.

"For far too long, society has dictated to us what it means to be a woman through the portrayal of women in various outlets," Gentry said. "Often, we measure our womanhood against those portrayals. We relinquish our power to define what it means to be a woman. It's time for us to take that power back. Time for us, the amazing women of today, to dictate to society what it means to be a woman."



# Exercise prepares Soldiers for natural disaster response

By Sgt. 1st Class  
Shelman Spencer

U.S. ARMY NORTH PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Americans who live along the eastern coastline are no strangers to the devastation caused by hurricanes and tropical storms. In the wake of that disaster, first responders, state and federal agencies pool resources to bring aid to those effected by the natural disaster.

Those called to render aid participated in the week-long Exercise Vigilant Guard with Soldiers and civilians assigned to Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston's U.S. Army North (Fifth Army) and Task Force-51 in Atlanta.

Vigilant Guard centers around a level three hurricane hitting Georgia and the response by local, state and federal agencies coordinating assistance.

**“It’s been a great integration exercise between all forces both — National Guard and active duty — and we had reserve forces here too.”**

**Col. John D. Highfill, G3, Task Force-51,  
U.S. Army North (Fifth Army)**

“The Georgia Emergency Management Authority wanted to exercise their emergency support functions for the state and exercise their joint force headquarters, which is the National Guard,” said Army Lt. Col. Lawrence T. McKiernan, Region IV deputy defense coordinating officer.

The hurricane triggers a series of steps and processes to get the aid needed to the people effected.

“What happens during a disaster is that it starts at the

citizen level. As the citizens bubble up the requirements to emergency management at the county level, then the county is taking care of the citizens,” said Army Col. Catherine M. Tait, Georgia National Guard. “The county then communicates to the state and the state helps them solve any issues they can’t handle.”

Should the lower levels of government exhaust their resources, or a capability that does not exist in their hierarchy, a call is made to the

federal government. More often than not, the federal government is already working on site and preparing to assist.

“They can go up quite a ways to different agency partners, if we were not able to handle the requirement, then the state of Georgia would work with their federal partners, which is the Federal Emergency Management Agency through the Department of Defense to get other partners to come in and help,” Tait said. “Resources at every level are put toward disaster relief and this — Exercise Vigilant Guard — is an opportunity to practice that.”

Federal and DOD resources cannot be used without specific requests from the state, which is when the governor requests a presidential state of emergency.

“Upon request, the state has to get Title 10, federal forces, in

through the governor’s request to the president of the United States,” said Col. John D. Highfill, G3, Task Force-51, U.S. Army North (Fifth Army). “When that declaration is made and Title 10 forces are requested, it’s for a very specific reason, because the capacity or capability of the state has been exceeded.”

The Federal Emergency Management Agency, or FEMA, has 10 regions across the United States which systematically conduct training based on threats to their areas. Each FEMA region trains and builds relationships with the various levels of government so everyone is better prepared to respond to a real world crisis.

“It’s been a great integration exercise between all forces both — National Guard and active duty — and we had reserve forces here too,” Highfill said.

CUTTING-EDGE CARE EXPANDS TO CREATE VAST NETWORK

# Brooke Army Medical Center named Army's first virtual medical center

By Elaine Sanchez

BAMC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Brooke Army Medical Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston has been selected to be the Army's first virtual medical center, or MEDCEN, Army Surgeon General Lt. Gen. Nadja Y. West announced recently.

"We are tremendously proud and excited about this opportunity to expand the Army's virtual health capabilities," said BAMC Commander Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Johnson. "This is an amazing opportunity for BAMC to leverage state-of-the-art technology to support military medical facilities and patients around the world and for our medical professionals to benefit from a readiness standpoint."

As a virtual MEDCEN, BAMC will be better able to

implement cutting-edge virtual technology — whether email, web-based programs, cameras or cellphone — to offer other providers consultations and better serve service members, retirees and their families both stateside and overseas, explained Army Lt. Col. (Dr.) Sean Hipp, BAMC's lead for virtual medicine initiatives.

"With virtual health nested within our organization, we will be at the cutting edge of virtual efforts; able to support medical professionals in Europe and any place where service members are located," Hipp said.

Along with fostering in-house virtual efforts, BAMC will also have the resources to tap into virtual efforts underway at other military medical facilities and expand them military-wide. "Other Army regions are doing amazing



COURTESY PHOTO

Along with fostering in-house virtual efforts, BAMC will also have the resources to tap into virtual efforts underway at other military medical facilities.

things," Hipp said. "Our goal is to build off those and expand what's happening in one region to all."

Rather than a separate facility, virtual efforts will be embedded in nearly every department throughout

BAMC, Hipp noted. "We have an amazing pool

BAMC continues on 19

## ARNORTH hosts German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge test

By Sgt. Maj. Dean Welch

U.S. ARMY NORTH PUBLIC AFFAIRS

U.S. Army North (5th Army) hosted the first-ever postwide three-day German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge, or GAFPB, test for the first time post-wide on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston and JBSA-Camp Bullis March 31-April 2.

A total of 210 U.S. service members from the active, Reserve, and National Guard earned either gold, silver or bronze GAFPB, depending on their overall score. The German Armed Forces Command in Reston, Va., authorized the

test and hopes to partner with JBSA to test twice each year.

To earn the GAFPB, participants needed to demonstrate proficiency in basic fitness with a 10-meter shuttle sprint, a flexed-arm hang and a 1000-meter run. In addition, those vying for the badge were tested on first aid, chemical training, weapons marksmanship, a 100-meter swim in uniform and a 12-kilometer foot march with a 33-pound rucksack.

The GAFPB is one of the few approved foreign awards authorized by the U.S. Military for wear on the service uniform.



A U.S. Army Soldier struggles to keep her chin above the bar during the flexed-arm hang April 1 during the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge testing at BSA-Camp Bullis.



PHOTOS BY SGT. MAJ. DEAN WELCH

A U.S. service member treads water before removing his uniform as part of the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge test March 31 at the Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Aquatics Center.



# JBSA member sows love of gardening in area youth

By David DeKunder  
502ND AIR BASE WING  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Bob Blaesing looks forward to the weekends when he can go to the San Antonio Botanical Garden, where he can enjoy the fresh air and help sow the seeds of gardening to schoolchildren who are learning to grow their own plants and appreciate nature.

Blaesing, U.S. Army Environmental Command environmental support manager at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, volunteers his time on three Saturdays a month in the spring and the fall with the Children's Vegetable Garden Program, which provides youth ages 8 to 13 and their parents an opportunity to grow vegetables and plants on their own plot, which each measure 100 square feet, in a vegetable garden on the grounds of the botanical center.

Youth in the Children's Vegetable Garden Program learn about the proper ways and techniques of gardening from Bexar County Master Gardeners and instructors from the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.

Blaesing is one of many volunteers who spend their time working and tending the vegetable garden. He said he is proud to be part of a program that teaches children about gardening and growing their own plants while instilling an appreciation of the environment to them.

"It's a great reward knowing you are passing on the knowledge of sustainable gardening and practices in environmental stewardship to them," Blaesing said. "When they plant something and it grows, you get to see that sense of accomplishment and reward on their faces."

Blaesing's involvement with

**"It's a good way for kids to come out and bond with their families. We encourage the kids and parents to put away their cell phones and unplug for that time in the garden."**

Nadezhda Garza  
San Antonio Botanical Garden volunteer coordinator

the San Antonio Botanical Garden started in November 2015 when he was looking for a place to compost coffee grounds and fruit peels put in a container he set up in the break room used by members of the Army Environmental Command.

"I looked at places to take the compost to and the botanical garden came to my mind," he said.

When Blaesing contacted the botanical garden, he was put in touch with Nadezhda Garza, San Antonio Botanical Garden volunteer coordinator. Garza told him the compost from the Army Environmental Command break room could be put to good use to help fertilize the vegetable garden.

As Blaesing brought the compost to the botanical gardens, he learned about the Children's Vegetable Garden Program from Garza and decided to help out and become a volunteer.

Garza said the Children's Vegetable Garden Program has two growing seasons, from February to June and August to December. During each growing season, children, parents and volunteers work in the vegetable garden every Saturday morning for three to four hours.

Currently, 45 children are participating in the program during the spring growing season. Since the botanical

garden is located near JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, Garza said some of the children and parents who help tend the vegetable garden are military families.

"It's a good way for kids to come out and bond with their families," Garza said. "We encourage the kids and parents to put away their cell phones and unplug for that time in the garden."

The vegetable garden, which was established in 1983 by Brig. Gen. Dave Thomas and members of the San Antonio Men's Garden Club, is one of the nation's oldest youth vegetable teaching gardens. The garden consists of 53 plots for children and families and vegetables and plants are grown organically. Vegetables and plants grown in the garden include tomatoes, potatoes, cauliflower, cabbage, ornamental annual flowers and herbs.

Garza said the children and their families get to take home the produce they grow.

Blaesing said he is new to gardening and that he has learned a lot by volunteering and working alongside the Bexar County Master Gardeners.

"I'm an eager student," he said. "This is an incredible opportunity to learn from the master gardeners."

Blaesing said he enjoys gardening because it gives him a chance to be outdoors and in



DAVID DEKUNDER

Bob Blaesing, a member of the U.S. Army Environmental Command, volunteers at the San Antonio Botanical Garden where he can enjoy the fresh air and help sow the seeds of gardening to schoolchildren who are learning to grow their own plants and appreciate nature.

nature.

"It gives me a chance to be connected with the earth," he said.

Blaesing continues to contribute to the compost efforts of the vegetable garden, providing an average of 40 to 50 pounds per month from coffee grounds and fruit peels his work colleagues throw into the container in the Army Environmental

Command breakroom.

For information on the Children's Vegetable Garden Program, contact Garza at 210-536-1415 or [ngarza@sabot.org](mailto:ngarza@sabot.org) or go to the San Antonio Botanical Garden website at [www.sabot.org/education/childrens-vegetable-gardens-program/](http://www.sabot.org/education/childrens-vegetable-gardens-program/). The program includes a registration fee.



Bob Blaesing, U.S. Army Environmental Command environmental support manager at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, disposes of coffee grounds and fruit peels in the San Antonio Botanical Garden's vegetable garden compost pile.

# LACKLAND

## First Latina military pilot, area aviators honored at Hall of Fame awards

By Jeremy Gerlach  
502ND AIR BASE WING  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Retired Air Force Lt. Col. Olga Custodio, the first Latina military pilot to serve in the U.S. Air Force, still has fond memories of her flying days at Kelly Field.

Custodio was one of several area aviators honored March 30 at the San Antonio Aviation and Aerospace Hall of Fame awards at Port San Antonio, the site of the former Kelly Field.

“San Antonio, and Kelly Field especially, means a lot to me,” Custodio said. “My husband worked here when I moved to Brooks Air Force Base, and my officer’s entrance package came through here. Coming through the Air Force was a career I always dreamed of, and that’s what I was able to accomplish here.”

Custodio, the daughter of a U.S. Army sergeant, was born in San Juan, Puerto Rico in 1953. After living abroad in Taiwan, Iran and Paraguay, she applied to and was accepted at the U.S. Air Force Officers Candidate School in 1980.

Commissioned as a second lieutenant, Custodio completed her undergraduate pilot training at Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas and became a T-38 Talon instructor pilot. After transferring to Randolph Air Force Base, Custodio became the first Latina to serve as an Air Education and Training command flight instructor. In 1988, when Custodio joined the Air Force Reserve, she also accepted a civilian job, becoming the first

**“I think everything is open to women now – so if they wanted to go into aviation, I don’t think they’d have any problem succeeding. And San Antonio – this is Military City USA. This is where military aviation started (at Fort Sam Houston). That’s special to me.”**

**Retired Air Force  
Lt. Col. Olga Custodio,  
the first Latina military pilot  
to serve in the U.S. Air Force**

Latina commercial airline captain working for American Airlines.

Custodio, who retired in 2003, was eager to recommend her career path to today’s young women, especially those living in San Antonio.

“I think everything is open to women now – so if they wanted to go into aviation, I don’t think they’d have any problem succeeding,” Custodio said. “And San Antonio – this is Military City USA. This is where military aviation started (at Fort Sam Houston). That’s



COURTESY PHOTO

Retired Air Force Lt. Col. Olga Custodio, the first Latina U.S. Air Force pilot, is pictured as a first lieutenant while in flight training. Custodio was one of several area aviators honored March 30 at the San Antonio Aviation and Aerospace Hall of Fame awards at Port San Antonio.

special to me.”

Alongside Custodio, the hall of fame ceremony also honored former U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchinson, NASA astronaut Bernard Harris, the 433rd Airlift Wing, and handed out posthumous awards to Col. William Charles Ocker, Major Joseph Crane, Col. William Tuttle and Luther Bynum Clegg.

Hutchinson, a Texas senator during the closure and realignment of Kelly Air Force Base, championed the redevelopment of Kelly into Port San

Antonio, which helped save thousands of aerospace jobs in the San Antonio area.

Harris, like Custodio, is a trailblazer. Born in Temple, Texas, Harris flew two space shuttle missions and became the first African-American to perform a spacewalk in orbit.

Ocker and Crane were early 20th century inventors who helped create navigation and automated landing instruments enabling the first military pilots to take off, fly and land safely in low-visibility conditions. Tuttle and Clegg

both served on the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce in the early 1900s and helped establish Randolph Field in San Antonio in 1928.

While Custodio was proud her trailblazing career was recognized alongside these other honorees, she is also happy to be retired.

“I miss the flying,” Custodio said. “But, I also worked very hard over a 30-year career, so I also have to enjoy all the fruits of my labor. Now, my job, along with my husband, is to travel and enjoy life.”



# Women's History Month luncheon focuses on empowerment

**By Senior Airman Krystal Wright**

502ND AIR BASE WING  
PUBLIC AFFAIR

The Women's History Month committee hosted a luncheon March 24 at the Gateway Club here.

The luncheon featured three guest speakers who each spoke about this year's theme: Our history is our strength — past, present and future.

The first guest speaker, Retired U.S. Marine Corps Capt. Queta Marquez, who spoke about the past, talked about her 20 years in the military and the people during the course of her career she believes helped shape her into a leader.

Marquez described the challenges she faced when she and her fellow Marines deployed to Somalia shortly after arriving at her first duty station.

"I learned so much from that experience," she said. "I

learned that it takes people from all walks of life and all backgrounds to come together to serve towards a common goal. It was extremely eye-opening for me."

After spending 10 years as an enlisted member, Marquez applied for and was commissioned as an officer.

"It was definitely a challenge going from enlisted to officer, but one of the things that will always stick with me is a comment someone made," Marquez said. She recalled when her commission program application was pending, a senior officer asked her in front of the entire office "Do you think you should be picked up for this (package) because you are a female and Latina?"

"I said, 'No, sir, because I deserve to be selected because I am a ... good Marine and can run circles around half of your peers; and I don't think you would ask a male Marine that,

would you?'

"It's not something that is comfortable to talk about, but it is something that exists," Marquez said. "That mindset ... it is a challenge that I faced as a female that I would be willing to bet most males don't have to face."

Marquez wasn't discouraged.

"I signed up knowing exactly what I was getting into and I am proud of that. But there are challenges inherent in being in a male-dominated environment and there are challenges women will always have to face to some degree simply because they are female."

Despite these hurdles, Marquez "absolutely loved being a Marine" and "things have changed a lot since I first came in ... for the better."

U.S. Air Force Col. Deedra Zabokrtsky, 59th Medical Operations Group chief nurse with 25 years of military service, was the second guest

speaker. She spoke about the present.

While Marquez focused on the hurdles she overcame and learned from, Zabokrtsky emphasized the importance of developing future generations, which she claims is one of her passions as a professional.

"In my mind, the present is really the bridge that connects the past with the future ... and we (women) continue to develop over time," she said. "You are the present and future role models, and you are advocates blazing trails for our next generation."

Zabokrtsky's first chief nurse once asked her what their office needed. Zabokrtsky believed there was an item they needed that the chief nurse was unfamiliar with.

"That was the moment I first experienced empowerment," she remembered. "I shared my knowledge and ... we got the items not because I asked for

them, but because the newest nurse was able to explain what they were and why they were important."

"That is a lesson that I never forgotten and one I try to instill in others: Educate your staff, empower them and then get out of the way," she said. "An empowered team is confident, motivated and will exceed expectations."

The final speaker, who spoke on the future, was Tunisian Lt. Jr. Noura Abid, a student at the Defense Language Institute English Learning Center at Joint Base San Antonio.

Although there are challenges, Abid said she loves being in her country's military and being an interpreter. It requires hard work, dedication, and continuous training and learning.

Learning is the key to success and knowledge is a powerful weapon, she said. It strengthens ambitions.

# RANDOLPH

WE WHO CAME HOME MUST NEVER FORGET THOSE WHO COULD NOT

## Reunion honors sacrifice of POWs/MIA's

By Senior Airman  
Stormy Archer

502ND AIR BASE WING  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Members of the 560th Flying Training Squadron hosted the 44th annual Freedom Flyer Reunion and 20th annual POW/MIA Symposium March 30-31 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas.

The event honors all prisoners of war and missing in action service members from the Vietnam War and included a wreath-laying ceremony and a missing man formation fly-over. Col. Joel Carey, 12th Flying Training Wing commander, and retired U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Dr. John Rose, Vietnam War veteran, were featured as guest speakers during the wreath-laying event at the foot of JBSA-Randolph's Missing Man Formation Monument.

"Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to join us, for the celebration in this remembrance of many of those who have come to serve before and sacrificed much," said Carey.

In the years following the

Vietnam War the 560th FTS hosted the Pilot Requalification Program for POWs returning to flight status.

Their first flight with the 560th was designed to duplicate what each returning pilot's last flight in South East Asia would have been. Traditionally each pilot completing his 100th mission or end of tour was greeted on the flight line by his comrades to celebrate his safe return.

Keeping with tradition, the 560th FTS provided each former POW with their long overdue "fini" flight.

Since the first flight on May 21, 1973, the 560th FTS has flown 198 former POWs.

"I cannot begin to tell you how proud I am to be here; to be a part of this ceremony and remembrance for fellow Vietnam veterans," said Rose.

Rose recalled the challenges service members faced when returning from the Vietnam War in contrast to how service members are treated today.

"I remember coming home after 13 months in Vietnam and being met by an NCO who said, 'Take off your uniform, you're

back in the United States, you are not welcomed here,'" Rose said. "It was a painful and tough time, it was a difficult time for our nation. We all know how difficult it was back then, and we can't change that now, but I am so delighted and proud about the way we treat our service members of all branches today upon their return."

Following the wreath-laying ceremony, guests had the opportunity to listen to former POWs share their experiences and lessons learned from captivity during the 20th Annual POW/MIA Symposium in the JBSA-Randolph Fleenor Auditorium.

"What I have learned from all of this is that, you Vietnam veterans did not quit your country, you did not walk away," Rose said. "You helped build the nation that we have today; the strongest military the world has ever seen and a nation that is built on our values, beliefs and trust. For that you deserve great respect, honor and the sincerest thanks and appreciation."



SEAN M. WORRELL

A formation of T-34 Mentors perform a missing man flyover during the Freedom Flyer Reunion wreath-laying ceremony March 31 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

## Proof of no recalls on all vehicles mandatory before shipping

By Tina Jenkins

JBSA-RANDOLPH PERSONAL  
PROPERTY PROCESSING OFFICE

Military Surface Deployment and Distribution at Scott Air Force Base, Ill., has put out an advisory announcing that prior to turning a privately-owned vehicle, or POV, into a vehicle processing center, or VPC, for shipment, customers must en-

**Customers must provide documented proof that there are no open recalls on their vehicle before the vehicle processing center will accept it for shipment.**

sure their vehicle does not have any unresolved recall notices.

Vehicle owners can verify if their vehicles have a recall no-

tice by visiting <https://vinrel.safercar.gov/vin/>. Customers should also print a report for documented proof

from this website on the status of recalls associated with their vehicle.

Effective April 1, customers must provide documented proof that there are no open recalls to the VPC during turn-in before the center will accept the vehicle for shipment. If the recall cannot be corrected due to a lack of parts from the original manufacturer or due to a lack of me-

chanical ability in the geographical area, the customer should contact their servicing VPC for assistance on how to ship their vehicle.

For more information, call the local Personal Property Processing Offices: Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph at 210-652-1848; JBSA-Fort Sam Houston at 210-221-1605; or JBSA-Lackland at 210-671-2821.



# Famaganza celebrates Month of the Military Child

**By Senior Airman  
Stormy Archer**

502ND AIR BASE WING  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JBSA-Randolph's annual Famaganza event will celebrate the Month of the Military Child 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 8 at the JBSA-Randolph Youth Center.

Famaganza is an annual spring family festival that celebrates the Month of the Military Child, and provides activities, entertainment, information booths, a book fair, food and refreshments at the JBSA-Randolph Youth Center, building 585.

"This event brings together roughly 30 dif-

ferent organizations from within our Joint Base installations and neighboring communities," said Andrea Black, JBSA-Randolph Youth Programs program director. "Our fields will be filled with exciting games and activities for all families. This is a fun filled event that we are very proud to host."

Activities will include face painting, inflatables, games, arts and crafts, a bungee run, an obstacle slide, a play area, baseball, a hot dog eating contest, door prizes and more. Lunch will be provided and the event is free to families of DoD card holders.

Famaganza will also

feature military working dog demonstrations by 902nd Security Forces Squadron members and Randolph Fire Emergency Services firefighters, who will bring a fire truck and demonstrate its capabilities.

Information booths will also feature demonstrations, giveaways and activities for children.

Based on previous years, Famaganza is expected to draw more than 2,500 active-duty members, retirees, civilians and their families.

Volunteers are still needed to help cook and work booths at the event.

To volunteer or get more information on the event, call 652-3298.



AIRMAN 1ST CLASS LAUREN ELY

*Members of Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph joust during Famaganza at the Youth Programs Complex April 9 at JBSA-Randolph. Famaganza, a free family event open to all Department of Defense cardholders, featured entertainment, food and information booths.*

# JROTC program comes to Randolph High School

By Robert Goetz

502ND AIR BASE WING  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

After more than two years of daily bus trips to another school for junior ROTC instruction, cadets at Randolph High School will soon have their own program.

Starting in August, when they report back to school for the start of the 2017-18 academic year, the students will belong to Air Force JROTC TX-20172.

"Randolph High School's mission is to provide a quality education to the children of our brave members of the military," said Principal Mark Malone. "Having our own Air Force JROTC unit links our students to the important sacrifice their parents have made and gives them an opportunity to both honor a tradition of service and to learn important leadership skills regardless of the career path they choose."

Up until the 2014-15 school year, Randolph High School had not offered a JROTC program to its students in its 50 years of existence – primarily because of its size.

However, in October 2014, a cross-town agreement between the Randolph Field Independent School District and the Judson ISD allowed a dozen Randolph students to take a bus each day to Judson High School in Converse, Texas, to become part of that school's program.



SENIOR AIRMAN STORMY ARCHER

*Randolph High School Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps cadets practice marching March 27 at Randolph High School at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.*

During the previous school year, current senior Carlos Perez, who was new to Randolph High School, and his family approached Malone, then in his first year at Randolph, and championed the idea of starting a JROTC detachment at the school. That meeting set off a chain of events that led to the cross-town agreement.

Carlos, who now serves as wing commander for the Judson program, said he and his family worked with Malone and Superintendent Lance Johnson as well as Judson officials to get the ball rolling. He also singled out his mother for her determination in the effort.

Carlos had previously been part of a Navy JROTC detachment in Spain and greatly benefited from his participation in the program.

"It was a really awesome experience, so when I came here, I really wanted other kids to have that same experience,"

he said.

Since the cross-town agreement was signed, the number of Randolph students who have joined the Judson program has nearly quadrupled to more than 40 this year, but it became clear students would be better served if they had their own program on their own campus.

Because students were leaving sixth period about 10 minutes early to board the bus – missing the end of their sixth-period class – and spending their seventh and final period of the day at Judson, some opportunities were lost, said retired Air Force Col. James Costey, who will guide the Randolph program.

"One of the challenges you have with it only being offered at seventh period is that you have varsity athletes who can't participate fully because they travel on certain days of the week to go to away games," he said. "If there's a course that's

only offered during seventh period and it's core curriculum, then someone who wants to be a cadet can't participate because they have to take their core curriculum classes."

Recognition of these and other challenges led to an effort to seek authorization from the Air Force JROTC headquarters at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., for a Randolph High School program.

Carlos said his face "lit up" when he heard from his principal in November that JROTC would be coming to Randolph High School in the 2017-18 school year.

Although he was happy, Carlos said he was also somewhat disappointed, since he would be graduating this year.

"At the same time it was pretty awesome that I was able to put in so much work and time and help bring a program that is pretty significant," said Carlos, who will be attending

Texas A&M University this fall on an ROTC scholarship.

Costey is already on campus getting ready for the next school year and the launch of Randolph's own JROTC program. He and retired Air Force Master Sgt. Paul Scott will serve as the school's first JROTC cadre, and they are planning an informational meeting for students and parents at 6:30 p.m. April 5 in the new cafeteria.

One of Costey's messages is that the program is not a pipeline into the military, but a citizenship development course, a way to help students "find their greatness and move forward."

"The key difference between junior ROTC and the college-level ROTC is that junior ROTC is not a pathway into the military," Costey said. "We're not here to recruit kids into the military, we're not here to get them signed up for contracts. We're here to help them become better citizens."

Brittany Martin, a sophomore who started JROTC as a freshman, said she has benefited from the Judson program and is looking forward to being part of the Randolph program this fall.

"I really enjoy ROTC," she said. "It has taught me so much – how to be a leader and how to step up when I need to step up. It has definitely taught me a lot and has had a huge impact on my life."

## SCHOOLS

From page 2

that supports transitioning students."

In addition to school programs that welcome new students, Phipps said, parents should be aware of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children because it provides for the uniform treatment of military children

dren transferring between school districts and states. The compact addresses many of the education issues they face when they move to another state.

"Learning about the interstate compact and how it relates to education requirements for schools is a valuable tool," she said.

Phipps also encouraged parents to be engaged in their children's education.

"Parents can help ease their

children's transition to a new school by becoming great advocates for them," Phipps said. "Getting to know their military child education specialist that is in the school liaison office at each installation is critical."

The school liaison office is a "one-stop shop," Green said.

"We work hard to ensure families are supported and taken care of," she said. "We can provide parents with the information and resources

they need."

School liaison officers regularly brief parents at JBASA's Military & Family Readiness Centers during PCS'ing with School-Age Youth workshops, Green said. The next workshops are 10 a.m. to noon April 19 at the JBASA-Randolph M&FRC, building 693, and 1-3 p.m. April 20 at the JBASA-Lackland M&FRC, building 1249.

"We educate our families on how they make their children's

transition to a new school smoother," she said. "Parents are able to ask questions and meet and learn from other parents who are facing the same challenges. In addition, other professionals at the M&FRC address parents on a range of issues."

For more information, call the school liaison officer at JBASA-Fort Sam Houston, 221-2256; JBASA-Lackland, 671-8388; or JBASA-Randolph, 652-5321.

## FORT SAM HOUSTON BRIEFS

### Scott Road construction

Beginning April 10, Scott Road (between Wilson Way and Henry T. Allen Road) will be closed for construction. The construction is scheduled to take up to 90 days. Traffic entering the post through Walters ACP will only be able to turn left or right at the intersection. Drivers can expect an increase in traffic congestion and delays.

### Blended Retirement 101

**Date/Time:** April 10, 9-10 a.m.  
**Location:** Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797  
Attendees learn how the new military retirement system differs from the traditional legacy retirement pension. To reserve a seat, call 210-221-2705.

### Children in the Middle

**Date/Time:** April 13 and 27, 8 a.m.-noon  
**Location:** M&FRC, building 2797.  
This two-part workshop meets the Texas court-ordered requirements for divorcing parents. Parents will review strategies on how to handle co-parenting and more. To register, call 210-221-2418.

### Boots to Business

**Date/Time:** April ##, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.  
**Location:** M&FRC, building 2797.  
Transitioning service members will attend a two-day workshop hosted by the Small Business Administration to review business ownership, resources, startup capital and more. To register, call 210-221-1213.

### R.E.A.L. Command Team Training

**Date/Time:** April 18, 1-4 p.m.  
**Location:** Military & Family

Readiness Center, building 2797  
The new Readiness Essentials for Army (R.E.A.L.) Command Team Training provides guidance to commanders, and identifies their roles and responsibilities at all levels in the execution of the Family Readiness mission. To reserve a seat, call 210-221-2418.

### Interviewing Skills

**Date/Time:** April 19, 9-11 a.m.  
**Location:** M&FRC, building 2797.  
Attendees will review preparation for a job interview and tips on how to dress. To register, call 210-221-2418.

### Home Buying 101

**Date/Time:** April 21, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.  
**Location:** M&FRC, building 2797.  
Participants review the differences of renting vs. owning, loan types, Realtors, budgeting and more. To register, call 210-221-2705

### M&FRC New Hours of Operation

The Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797, has extended its hours of operation to Monday through Friday from 7 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and closes every first and third Thursday from 1-4:30 p.m. For more information, call 210-221-2705.

### M&FRC Computer Lab

The M&FRC has changed the hours of operation and acceptable use policy for the computer lab. The lab is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8 a.m.-4 p.m., and Tuesdays and Thursday from noon-4 p.m. It's closed every first and third Thursday. Patrons may use the lab for printing, faxing and computer use at no charge for services directly related to M&FRC programs. For other needs, a list of resources is available at the front desk.

## LACKLAND BRIEFS

### Heart link

**Date/Time:** April 12, 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.  
**Location:** Gateway Club  
An orientation for military spouses to make new friends while learning about the military mission, lifestyle, protocol and available services. Lunch is provided. To register, call 210-671-3722.

### How to buy a house

**Date/Time:** April 13, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.  
**Location:** Military & Family Readiness Center, building 1249  
Attendees will discuss renting versus home ownership, budgets and more. For more information, call 210-671-3722.

### Underwater Easter Egg Hunt

**Date/Time:** April 15, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
**Location:** Skylark Aquatic Center  
There will be a special Easter Egg Hunt for youth ages 5-11. Cost is \$3 per participant. There will be a visit from the Easter Bunny. Times are 11 a.m.-noon for ages 5-7, noon-1 p.m. for ages 8-10 and 1-2 p.m. for ages 11-13. For more information, call 210-671-3780.

### Volunteer appreciation

**Date/Time:** April 14, 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m.  
**Location:** Gateway Club  
Participants learn about volunteer opportunities and speak to JBSA mission partners and representatives from the local volunteer community. Call 210-671-3722 for details.

### Personal productivity

**Date/Time:** April 17, 9 a.m. to noon  
**Location:** First Term Airman Course, building 5612  
This professional development course gives individuals techniques, strategies and tools to improve productivity at work, home and throughout life. To register, visit this website from a CAC enabled computer: <https://cs3.eis.af.mil/sites/OO-ED-AE-15/Courses/Registration/Registration.aspx>.

### Caring for aging parents

**Date/Time:** April 18, 10 a.m.-noon  
**Location:** Military & Family Readiness Center, building 1249  
Participants learn about resources for caring for aging parent. For more information, call 210-671-3723.

## RANDOLPH BRIEFS

### Retiree Appreciation Lunch

**Date/Time:** April 7  
**Location:** JBSA-Randolph Wingman Café  
A special lunch will be served at the Wingman Café to thank all JBSA retirees. The menu includes free cake while it lasts, shrimp scampi skewers for \$6; grilled steak for \$9.95; chicken bruschetta for \$2.50 and a variety of side dishes.

### Key Spouse Refresher

**Date/Time:** April 11, 9-10 a.m.  
**Location:** Military & Family Readiness Center, building 693  
Key Spouses who have attended the initial mandatory training at a previous location are encouraged to attend a refresher training to review local resources. To reserve a seat, call 210-652-5321.

### Randolph Retiree Appreciation Day

**Date/Time:** April 8, 8:15 a.m.-noon  
**Location:** Kendrick Club  
The Randolph Retiree Appreciation Day honors all military

retirees and spouses in the San Antonio area. Ceremonies begin at 8:30 a.m. For more information, call the Randolph Retiree Activities Office at 210-652-6880.

### Defense, IT, Cyber & Intel Hiring Fair

**Date/Time:** 11 a.m.-2 p.m., April 12  
**Location:** JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Golf Club, 1050 Harry Wurzbach Road  
Event organized by [www.TransitionCareers.com/events/JBSA](http://www.TransitionCareers.com/events/JBSA). Even if you can't attend, register and upload your résumé. Thousands of jobs are available.

### Volunteer Picnic

**Date/Time:** April 18, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.  
**Location:** M&FRC, building 693  
In honor of Volunteer Appreciation Week, current and potential JBSA volunteers are welcome to attend and learn about volunteer opportunities within the community. For more information, call 210-652-5321.



## BAMC

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of providers,” he said. “We felt it would be beneficial to create a vast network rather than a small group of dedicated personnel.”

While the military virtual MEDCEN concept is new, virtual health is well established at BAMC.

For example, BAMC has a long-standing dermatology virtual health program. This involves providers from around the world uploading digital photos of skin sites to a web-based system. Once the photo is received, a BAMC-based dermatology resi-

dent reviews the case, after which a staff dermatologist checks the outcome.

“This is helpful to smaller military treatment facilities or sites in theater that do not have a dermatologist on staff,” Hipp explained. “It also prevents our patients from having to travel to obtain a specialist’s opinion or diagnosis.”

In one case, prior to virtual dermatology, a military patient was sent to a specialist two hours away six times for acne.

The dermatology program also has had a positive impact on resident success.

“Since we’ve been doing this, we now have a 100 percent success

rate on testing for the board on the first try,” noted Chuck Lappan, project manager, Telemedicine Teleconsultation Programs Project Manager, Telehealth Regional Health Command-Central. “It enables residents to make a medical decision.”

BAMC also has a robust email-based consultation program for specialties such as cardiology, neurology and pulmonology, Lappan added, which enables providers to offer consultations to remote locations such as Antarctica or combat support hospitals downrange.

BAMC’s newest virtual program is called the “Mobile Medic.” This

Internal Medicine program uses a product developed in Regional Health Command-Europe called a T.H.I.A.B., or “Telehealth in a Bag.”

Medics go to patients’ homes, set up the virtual equipment, and connect back to the Internal Medicine provider at BAMC. They will perform an exam with the provider transmitting data such as heart and lung sounds or imaging inside the mouth.

Mobile Medic not only will save time and inconvenience for patients, but also will increase the medic’s readiness to deploy, Hipp noted.

“The medical bag they use is very similar to the bag they’d use down-

range,” he explained. “By using the tools here, they are more familiar with the equipment once they deploy.”

Hipp also cited an example of a virtual readiness program currently being used in other medical regions that he’d like to expand. This initiative involves conducting virtual Periodic Health Assessments and Post Deployment Health Readiness Assessments. These assessments are typically done on an annual basis and, in some cases, Soldiers and providers are required to travel to fulfill this readiness requirement.

“Currently, providers in Europe are conduct-

ing virtual assessments for Soldiers in Africa,” Hipp noted. “Virtual assessments save time and money, while ensuring we’re not taking valuable troops out of the field and away from their mission.”

Overall, as a virtual MEDCEN, BAMC will be able to “increase readiness, enhance patient satisfaction and leverage technology to improve access,” Hipp noted.

The BAMC team is excited about the opportunity to move forward with virtual efforts, Hipp said. “We have such a great and creative staff. The innovation of the BAMC staff will drive the mission forward.”